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USSR-EGYPT: Moscow is pressing Cairo not to resume hostilities after the cease-fire extension ends on 5 February.

[redacted] the Soviet leaders, during Egyptian Vice President Ali Sabri's visit to Moscow in late December, strongly urged Cairo to be "reasonable and flexible" as the expiration date nears.

[redacted]

Soviet President Podgornyy apparently repeated much the same message in his recent talks with Egyptian President Sadat in Cairo. It seems likely that Podgornyy also urged Sadat--with some success--to tone down his speeches threatening a return to hostilities.

Moscow's efforts to restrain Cairo seem intended to ensure that the Egyptians avoid painting themselves into a diplomatic corner so as to retain the widest possible choice of policies on 5 February. The Soviets almost certainly want the cease-fire extended, but they probably are willing to have the Egyptians decide whether the extension will be formal or tacit. At this point Cairo appears to favor no formal extension of the cease-fire.

[redacted]

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BERLIN: The expected East German slowdown of West German civilian traffic to West Berlin began on 27 January and should end by Sunday. Specific forecasts of the harassment had been made both by the Soviets at the four-power talks and by the East Germans during the East-West German negotiations. The Soviet and East German threats were directed against the Free Democratic Party meeting in West Berlin and the visits of West German President Heinemann and Chancellor Brandt to an annual agricultural exhibition in the city. The party meeting ends tomorrow and both Heinemann and Brandt will leave by that date.

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